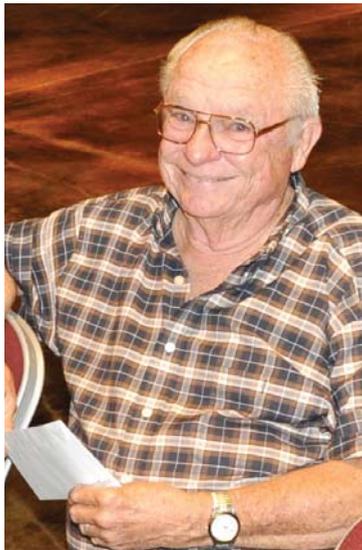


Heart of Texas EC's annual membership meeting drew a large crowd. Laughter filled the convention center as members listened to the special guest speaker, former Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith. Below: Lineman Jonathan Wilde shows a pair of young members how to climb a utility pole



It's Great To Be a Co-op Member!

Heart of Texas EC Hosts 10th Annual Membership Meeting

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE members gathered for their 2016 annual membership meeting October 18 at the Frank W. Mayborn Civic and Convention Center in Temple. This year was HOTEK's 10th annual meeting after the consolidation of Belfalls and McLennan County electric cooperatives.

HOTEK employees welcomed the large turnout of members as they arrived, handing out gift bags as they registered and directing them to various information booths.

A special area for children allowed the youngest members an opportunity to have their pictures taken with a lineman on a utility pole or in the bucket of a service truck.

The business meeting opened with a welcome by HOTEK Board of Directors President Garland Cook. Master of ceremonies David Carpenter introduced the board of directors, Operation Round Up directors and other special guests. The drawings for prizes began with Ron Poston announcing several winners.

Service Awards

Service awards were presented to several employees. Receiving his 20-year service award was lineman Barry Ballard. Robin Ciscell received a 15-year award. Receiving five-year awards were Miki Thompson, Will Alexander and Elizabeth Ritter.

Message From the Manager

General Manager Rick Haile reported that the co-op has had another successful year. He thanked the staff and directors for their hard work. He reported that the auditors were pleased with the annual audit, and no adjustments were necessary.

Haile also updated the members on the PLX meter upgrade, reporting that the new meters are about 50 percent deployed.

He also reported that \$600,000 in capital credits, for the years 1988, 1989, 1994 and 2015, were distributed.

HOTEK and several other area electric co-ops are discussing the possibility of building a solar farm capable of pro-



\$500 HOTEV bill credit grand prizewinners are Calvin Skrabanek, and Doris and Johnnie Volcik. Avery Lassetter, above, won a Kindle Fire HD 8.

ducing up to 1 megawatt of power. The project is in the planning stage, and more information will be provided if the decision is made to move forward.

Youth Tour Report

Teran Willberg, HOTEV's 2016 Youth Tour representative, thanked the board and members for their generosity in making it possible for him to visit Austin and Washington, D.C. He shared several highlights of his trip.

A special moment for him was visiting Arlington National Cemetery. While there, he placed a coin on the tombstone of Vincent Tana, a friend and neighbor who was recently buried there.

His comments reminded us of how fortunate we all are to live in this great country.

Laughter Is Lawful

Former Smith County Sheriff J.B. Smith was the guest speaker for the evening. His presentation, "Laughter Is Lawful," kept everyone entertained. His tall tales produced a lot of laughter. Between the laughs, he reminded the audience that everyone needs to look for the positive things in life and set a good example.

More Prizes!

The drawing for prizes continued, with prizes ranging from gift cards to tools to appliances handed out to lucky members.

Calvin Skrabanek, and Doris and Johnnie Volcik won the two grand prizes: \$500 bill credits.

Kindle Fires were won by Avery Lassetter and Jordan Patton.

The leaders of HOTEV look forward to another decade of serving members.

DIRECTORS ELECTED

- Garland Cook, *District 1*
- Kenneth Hollas, *District 3*
- Kermit Dreyer, *District 7*

SERVICE AWARDS

20 YEARS

Barry Ballard

15 YEARS

Robin Ciscell

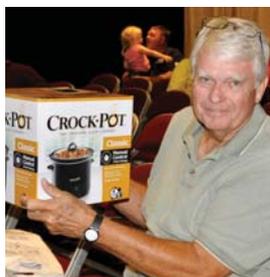
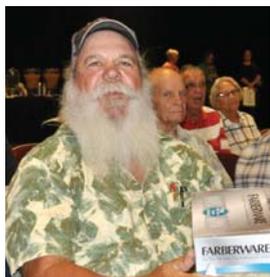
5 YEARS

Miki Thompson
Will Alexander
Elizabeth Ritter



Rick Haile presented service awards to several employees: Barry Ballard, 20 years; Robin Ciscell, 15 years; and Miki Thompson, Will Alexander and Elizabeth Ritter, five years.

There were a lot of smiling members at the 10th annual HOTEK membership meeting in October. Prizes valued at more than \$2,500 were given away.



ANNUAL MEETING PRIZEWINNERS

- Calvin Skrabanek**, \$500 HOTEK Bill Credit
- Doris & Johnnie Volcik**, \$500 HOTEK Bill Credit
- Avery Lassetter**, Kindle Fire
- Jordan Patton**, Kindle Fire
- Robert Cerrenka**, Samsung HDTV
- D'Ann Mays**, A&M Crock-Pot
- Fannie Mae Price**, Coffee Maker
- Arthur Greger**, Farberware Knife Set
- Roberta Gibson**, \$50 Bill Credit
- B.A. Smith**, Toolbox With Wrench Set
- Rickie Norosad**, 50-Piece Screwdriver Set
- Delois Obermiller**, 18-Volt Cordless Drill
- Douglas Kunkel**, \$50 Bill Credit
- Don Bethke**, \$50 Bill Credit
- Frankie Dohnalik**, 39-Inch LED HDTV
- Allen Graves**, Crock-Pot
- James Gibson**, Pivoting Work Light
- Gladys Osgood**, Folding Step Stool
- Ronald Pscencik**, Utility Heater
- W.D. Veatch**, Ceramic Heater
- Doug Sonntag**, Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer Set
- Shirley Burk**, Electric Knife
- Lone Star Iron & Trading**, Barbecue Tool Set
- Jacquelyn Fields**, Auto Safety Kit
- Eugene Lange**, \$50 Cash, Kasperian URD
- John Pagach**, \$50 Cash, Kasperian URD
- Allen Hoelscher**, 32-Inch Vizio TV
- Franklin Glaser**, Indoor Grill
- Danny Tobias**, Stanley Ratchet/Socket Set
- Lillian Dach**, Heater
- Ricky Hosch**, Hamilton Beach Hand Mixer
- Wayne Srjda**, \$50 Walmart Gift Card, Techline
- Barbara Walker**, \$50 Walmart Gift Card, Techline
- Doris Wright**, 1.5-Gallon Wet/Dry Vac
- Bernard Wimmer**, 6-Foot Floor Lamp
- Morning Star Baptist Church**, Presto Hot Air Popper
- Steve Pechal**, Toaster Oven
- Mike Smetanka**, \$50 Walmart Gift Card, KBS
- Roland Wachel**, \$50 Walmart Gift Card, KBS
- Willie Mason**, Shark Navigator DLX Vacuum
- Robert Stone**, \$75 Walmart Gift Card
- Rudloff Estate**, \$75 Walmart Gift Card
- Kenneth Driska**, \$75 Walmart Gift Card
- Melisa Ward**, Electric Meter Lamp

Youth Tour, Scholarship Applicants Sought for 2017

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE is offering two programs for area high school students. The Government-in-Action Youth Tour is sponsored in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and Texas Electric Cooperatives. This program gives students tours of Washington, D.C., and Austin, Texas.

The winner will join more than 125 other youths from Texas on this exciting trip. On Youth Day, participants from across the country will visit the nation's Capitol, where they will meet their state representatives. This event allows more than 1,500 students to rally together to hear inspirational speakers, and learn about each other and what life is like in other parts of the country.

The tour dates are June 7–16, 2017.

Essays and applications must be received by 5 p.m., February 15. Applicants must have completed their freshman year in high school.

The scholarship program awards five scholarships of \$1,000 each to graduating high school seniors who are pursuing higher education. Applications are due March 1, 2017.

Applicants for both programs must live with a parent or guardian who is an active Heart of Texas EC member.

Applications and more details can be found at hotec.coop. Select the Programs tab, then click on Youth Tour & Scholarships. For more information, call Member Services Manager Ron Poston at 1-800-840-2957.

2016 Capital Credits Allocation

HEART OF TEXAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has allocated capital credits to members' accounts for the 2016 calendar year. The allocations for 2016 amounted to \$4,371,825. This includes \$2,404,645 in operating margins.

Each account's equity can be calculated by multiplying the member's total bill—including security light expenses and excluding any taxes, service fees, memberships, deposits or miscellaneous charges—by a factor of 0.068457.

Capital credits are not returnable at this time, and they cannot be applied toward current or outstanding bills. If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please call the co-op office at 1-800-840-2957.



Power Tip

Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons: holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures such as turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with light-emitting diodes and washing clothes in cold water can help control energy costs.



Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative

Operating in Bell, Bosque, Coryell, Falls, Hamilton, McLennan and Milam counties

CEO AND GENERAL MANAGER

Rick Haile

DIRECTORS

Garland Cook, District 1
DeWayne Draeger, District 6
Kermit Dreyer, District 7
Paul Edge, District 2
Dan Foster, District 9
Kenneth Hollas, District 3
Bobby Nawara, District 4
Allen Shows, District 5
Larry Stock, District 8



Contact Us

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1-800-840-2957 toll-free

1111 S. Johnson Drive • P.O. Box 357
McGregor, TX 76657

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Drive-thru 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

ROSEBUD OFFICE

(254) 231-0444 local

1-800-840-2957 toll-free

159 Loop 265 • P.O. Box 598
Rosebud, TX 76570

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

CREDIT/DEBIT CARD PAYMENTS

Online at hotec.coop

By phone at 1-855-399-2688

FIND US ON THE WEB

hotec.coop



How Much Will Your Space Heater Cost?

WITH COLD WEATHER DAYS AHEAD, Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative wants to remind our members that when heating with space heaters, use them safely and sparingly to control your energy costs. How much does your space heater cost? You might be surprised when you discover the answer.

The chart below shows what your estimated cost would be for one space heater over a period of a week or month. For every additional space heater, the cost multiplies. If you were using two space heaters as your primary heat source for 24 hours per day over a month's time, the estimated cost would be \$211.80!

Electric plug-in space heaters are not more efficient than any other electric heating source, and all space heaters are equally efficient.

If you choose to use an electric space heater, please keep these safety tips in mind.

- ▶ Choose a heater that is certified by a nationally recognized testing institution, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).
 - ▶ Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable items, such as curtains and furniture, and out of high traffic areas.
 - ▶ Select a heater with an automatic shut off switch that will engage if it tips over and a guard around the heating element.
 - ▶ Check plugs and cords, and discard if frayed or damaged.
 - ▶ Electric heaters should be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- To learn more about how to save energy, visit hotec.coop.

Electric Space Heater Consumption Chart

The kWh rate based on 1,000 kWh at the Heart of Texas EC residential rate of 0.0920. Please note the chart includes the prorated Availability Charge, based on 1,000 kWh/month. The PCA is based on the current rate as of 10/01/16.

Heat Setting (watt)	Daily Hours of Operation								Rate/kWh	
	1	2	4	6	8	10	12	24	.0920	
1500	\$.14	\$.28	\$.55	\$.83	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.38	\$ 1.66	\$ 3.31		
	Cost per Week		Cost per Month							
	1500	\$23.18	1500	\$99.36						

Note: If the heater has a fan, the actual cost may increase over the amounts shown.

It's Christmas Time in Co-op Country!

CHRISTMAS IN ROSEBUD! Santa will arrive in Rosebud on Thursday, December 8, during the annual Christmas parade. The parade begins about 6 p.m. and travels down Main Street.

The annual Rosebud Volunteer Fire Department chili supper fundraiser will also be held that evening. Serving begins at 5 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Main Street.

CHRISTMAS IN MOFFAT! Santa makes his annual appearance on Saturday, December 10, at the Moffat Community Center's annual Christmas dinner. The center is in Temple, at 13410 Kuykendall Mountain Road.

CHRISTMAS IN VALLEY MILLS! First United Methodist Church of Valley Mills will hosts it annual Live Nativity on Sunday, December 18, at about 5 p.m. at the church on Highway 6.



WE WISH YOU AND YOUR LOVED ONES A

MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our offices will be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, in observance of the holidays.

PHOTO: ILLUSTRATION

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Did You Know

Animals are more sensitive to electric currents than humans. If you notice outdoor pets or livestock shying away from objects or hesitating to enter doorways, call an electrician. You might have stray voltage caused by poor grounding or defective electrical equipment.



Chilly? Reach for warm clothes instead of the thermostat.

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Stay Safe and Warm This Winter

HEATING A HOME TYPICALLY ACCOUNTS FOR 45 PERCENT of energy bills, making it the largest utility expense for most consumers, according to the U.S. Department of Energy. Being aware of potential hazards and using the device that's most efficient for your needs can make a big difference in safety and comfort. Heart of Texas Electric Cooperative offers tips for heating your home in safe and smart ways.

Furnace: Check your furnace at least annually. Removing built-up debris can reduce the risk of fire and make your furnace run more efficiently. Also remember to replace your furnace filter regularly during the winter. Replacing a dirty filter will increase the airflow and make your home more energy efficient.

Thermostat: Turning the thermostat down a few degrees when you are away from home or sleeping also helps reduce your monthly utility bill. To help you do this automatically, consider investing in a programmable thermostat, which can lead to a 10–15 percent reduction in energy costs.

Space heaters: Space heaters are not cost-efficient when used to heat more than one or two small areas. However, they are a smart option when only one room needs to be heated. Make sure that you consider safety first and purchase only certified models that have been tested by an independent laboratory. Always place your space heater on a steady surface away from foot traffic to prevent it from being knocked over, and be on the lookout for units with a tip-over switch.

Electric blankets and heating pads: Make yourself aware of manufacturer's instructions, and use the product only as it is intended. Never use an electric blanket that is wet, or folded so that the wires are crimped. Perform regular checks to look for scorch marks or visible damage.

Fireplaces: Always make sure that your chimney is clear, and open the damper if there are warm ashes in the hearth that could lead to a dangerous build-up of poisonous gases.

Small-scale strategies: Remember not to overlook minor changes to help you stay warm this winter. When possible, dress in layers, with clothes that are tight and close to the skin so that they can trap heat near the body. Switch the rotation of your ceiling fan that so it circles in a clockwise direction, blowing rising warm air downward. Additionally, use curtains to help block out the cold air when closed at night and to let in the sun's heat when parted during the day.

Safely Operate Your Portable Generator

WHEN YOU'VE LOST POWER, a portable generator can provide electricity to keep your home warm and power appliances. However, used improperly, a generator can present serious hazards.

Before using a generator, read the instructions and specifications. It should have more capacity than the combined wattage of the electronics you will plug into it. Make sure nothing is plugged into the generator when turning it on.

Never connect a portable generator directly to home wiring. This can result in potentially deadly backfeed, when electricity gets fed back through the electrical system and meter into power lines, creating a hazard to lineworkers and others near downed lines.

Never use a portable generator indoors. Carbon monoxide emissions can be deadly. Operate the generator outside in an open but protected space from which fumes can dissipate harmlessly.

Install a carbon monoxide detector, and be on the lookout for the signs of carbon monoxide poisoning. Symptoms include dizziness, nausea, headaches and lethargy. If you or someone else is showing these symptoms, move into fresh air and seek medical attention.

Run your generator once a month for 10 minutes to ensure that it is running properly and will be ready if you need it.

Keep your family safe this season by using generators according to the instructions.



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